

In the Claims:

Please add the following new claim 16 and cancel claims 1 to 7 and 15 without prejudice:

Claims 1 to 7 (canceled).

Claims 8 to 14 (previously canceled).

Claim 15 (canceled).

16(new). A combination preparation for contraception comprising

a first stage consisting of two daily dosage portions of an effective amount of estradiol valerate, wherein said two daily dosage portions of said estradiol valerate in said first stage are equal;

a second stage consisting of a first group and a second group of daily dosage portions of a combination of said estradiol valerate and either dienogest or drospirenone;

a third stage consisting of two daily dosage portions of an effective amount of said estradiol valerate, wherein said two daily dosage portions of said estradiol valerate in said third stage are equal but are smaller than said two daily dosage portions of said estradiol valerate in said first stage; and

an additional stage consisting of two daily dosage portions, each consisting of a pharmaceutically acceptable placebo;